

DEP Employees Recycle Tons & Save Energy!



You may be wondering what recycling has to do with saving energy. Well, a lot! Here's why.

New products that have recycled content use fewer natural resources and less energy to produce -- sometimes as much as 95% less energy. In fact, recycling is so important it is one

of the recommended actions in the [CT Climate Change Plan](#).

Remember the May clean-outs? Not only did our work spaces and file cabinets get a long-overdue purging, but we literally recycled tons of material over just a few days.

Here's just one example: We recycled **13 tons of mixed paper**. By recycling that paper instead of putting it in the trash, we saved approximately:

- **53,000 kwh of energy**
- **117 barrels of oil**
- **702 million BTUs of energy**
- **780 pounds of air pollutants**
- **91, 000 gallons of water**

Or put another way, **the annual green house gas emissions from 7 passenger vehicles!**¹

By the way...we also recycled **160 pounds of corrugated cardboard, 7 large boxes of scrap metal, 10 gallons of batteries, and 1000 pounds of techno-trash.**



And on top of *that*, we collected about **2,000 binders, gallons of paper clips** and **10 large boxes of file folders** for reuse.

So keep up the good work and watch for more updates about our recycling efforts at DEP.

Did you know that we recycle one 98-gallon container of bottles and cans every week?

Each aluminum can you recycle saves enough electricity to light a 100 watt bulb for 3.5 hours!

More about recycling and composting at 79 Elm...



Do you know about our pilot paper recycling program?

From September through March '09, you can recycle almost all your paper through two separate recycling systems: one for **high grade white paper** only and one for **other paper**.

Do you know what else you can recycle here?

You can also recycle bottles, cans, techno-trash, scrap metal, batteries, packing materials, inkjet and printer toner cartridges, tyvek envelopes, & overhead transparencies.

Do you compost your food scraps?

Since 1997, we have composted 83,371 pounds of food scraps! Instructions for what can be composted are located right above the container in the break rooms.

For more information about recycling, contact Judy Belaval or Mary Sherwin.

For more information about composting or to volunteer to be a compost turner or harvester, contact K.C. Alexander.

¹ Approximated saving from [EPA calculator](#)